

The Source

SCHOOL SYSTEM EDITION

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2012

KEEPING NC E-PROCUREMENT USERS INFORMED...

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

The NC E -Procurement Upgrade team is nearing the end of Pass 3 of System Testing and is working to retest issues found. Your school system's NCID Delegated Administrator may have created IDs for your users. Users need to log into NCID within 14 days of account creation and establish their security questions.

TRAINING CORNER

The go-live date change has allowed for a variety of enhanced training opportunities, including webinars. in-person regional training, online training and iob aids. Check back each month for training schedules and updates.

NC E-Procurement Go-Live Extended to July 2012

As mentioned briefly in the last issue, the go-live date of the upgraded NC E-Procurement system has been extended to July 2012. This change was driven by feedback from school systems and other agencies that a go-live at the start of the fiscal year would align better with existing business processes.

How does the extension help schools? To provide a fresh start and enable better system performance in NC E-Procurement, historical transaction data will not be converted to the upgraded system. You will still be able to access transactions in the old system after go-live, but on a 'read-only' basis. As a result, you will need to complete or close open transactions towards the end of the fiscal year ending June 30th. Most entities already follow fiscal year-end processes to close out orders, so moving the go-live date allows this closeout activity to occur in conjunction with normal annual fiscal year-end processes.

What's New: Catalog Search

The Catalog Home page now has improved searching capabilities. The new Catalog Navigation Panel allows users to quickly refine their search results. Search filters such as Supplier, Keyword, and Price will populate the Catalog Navigation Panel based on the search. Frequently purchased items can still be added to 'Favorites' folders as they are today. Instead of starting at the title page when creating requisitions, users in the upgraded system will be directed to the Catalog home page first. You will see more of this feature in training, but we think you will find it very valuable.

What does this mean for me? For now, this means you will continue creating and receiving on orders as usual. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, you will follow your school system's year-end process, working to close all transactions. You will receive reminders and be encouraged to hold off on starting new requisitions in NC E-Procurement closer to the go-live date. More information regarding any specific situations will come from a designated contact at your school district.

What will we focus on in the meantime? As the go-live date change was driven by business need, it gives the upgrade team time to provide additional training opportunities, including new online training modules and live training sessions. The live training sessions, focused on new functionality in the upgraded system, will include a combination of webinars and inperson training opportunities, including regional training sites for school systems.



More information about <u>Procurement Transformation</u> and the <u>NC E-Procurement Upgrade</u> can be found on the web.

If you have questions or comments about information covered in this issue, please contact the NC E-Procurement Help Desk at ephelpdesk@its.nc.gov.